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**A Practical Manual of Tides and Waves. By W. H. Wheeler.**

viii, and 201 pp., 7 Appendices, Index, and 18 Illustrations. Longmans, Green and Co., New York, 1906. (Price, \$2.50.)

This is a desirable addition to the books on physical geography. It gives a practical account, free from technicalities, of the action of the sun and moon in producing the tides and of the physical conditions by which tides are affected after their generation. A chapter is devoted to the history and development of tidal science. It received no large attention from the ancient astronomers, but the author shows how prominent were Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, and Newton in its development. The relation of the sun and moon to the earth, a simple and practical discussion of the theory of tides, the propagation of the tidal wave, tidal currents, the range of tides—or, in other words, the difference in level between high and low tidal waters, river tides, tidal bores, wind waves, tide measurements, and tides as a source of power—are chief among the other topics discussed. The author points out the common error of calling earthquake and wind waves “tidal waves.” A bibliography and tables make up the appendices. This practical handbook should be accessible to every teacher of physical geography. Unfortunately, there are many misprints, such as Cape La *Hague*, *Obydos* and *Abydos* (for Obidos, on the Amazon), *Tapagos*, Cape de Norte, *proroca*, and others. Cape Roque is printed for Cape St. Roque, and on page 145 Mr. Wheeler plays with the Pacific and the Amazon and geography itself in one line:

The Amazon enters the Pacific on the north coast of South America.

**India and Her People. By Swami Abhedananda.** 285 pp. and portrait.

The Vedanta Society, New York. 1906. (Price, \$1.25.)

The Swami Abhedananda, a native of India, is known best as a lecturer and writer on the Vedanta philosophy and religion. He has travelled extensively, spent a year in England, and has lived for the past nine years in the United States. This book, therefore, among many treating the same subject, has more than usual interest as coming from one who knows the Occident, and both knows and loves the Orient.

The book consists of lectures delivered before the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences during the season 1905-6. The subjects covered are the Philosophy and Religion of India, the Social Status of the Indian People, their Political and Educational Institutions, English Rule, India's Need, and, finally, the Reciprocal Influence of Eastern and Western Civilization. Each topic is treated from the historical point of view, present conditions being shown in relation to their origin and development. Thus, the lecture on “The Political Institutions of India” describes, first, the state of civilization existing among the ancient Indo-Aryans, and ample evidence is drawn from such Sanskrit writings as the Rig Veda, the Māhabhārata, the Ramayana, the Laws of Manu; also the writings of Megasthenes, and the letters of Chinese travellers, to show that an advanced system of government prevailed in India before the beginning of the Christian era. Then the effect of successive invasions upon the development of political institutions is traced.

The author pictures graphically the poverty and suffering of the Indian people of to-day, and their need of greater educational opportunity. English rule is strongly criticized as “tyrannical,” and this view is supported with statistical statements and quotations, especially from English writers and statesmen. Such facts as that India never knew a terrible famine until after the beginning of British rule; that the Indian Government spend annually only £750,000 for education of the natives, while the military expenses are nearly 36 times as great (nearly £27,000,000); that native in-

dustries have been crushed by prohibitive tariffs, and that, as stated in the Report of the Select Committee, "a large proportion of the revenue is annually drained away, without any return being made for it," while the people of India "have no voice whatever in imposing the taxes which they are called upon to pay"—these alone are sufficient evidence to justify severe censure. The Swami, however, expresses gratitude to England for the two benefits which, he acknowledges, she has conferred upon India: the reawakening of a national pride, and the chance to learn of the science, business enterprise, and culture of the West. As for religion, the Swami holds that the West has yet much to learn from India.

The book is decidedly interesting. Owing to the necessary brevity and popular nature of the treatment, many historical portions are too scantily filled in, and many statements which should be strengthened with a greater backing of facts are left with but little more weight than expressions of opinion. Still, for the student, the book has two admirable qualities: breadth in scope, and suggestiveness in material.

J. B. A.

**Pictures from the Balkans. By John Forster Fraser.** xii and 298 pp.

Map, Illustrations, and Index. Cassell & Company, London, 1906. (Price, \$2.)

Mr. Fraser is the British journalist who wrote "Canada As It Is," which was issued by the same publishers over a year ago (BULLETIN, 1905, p. 700). He has brought the same qualities of shrewd observation and lively description to the drawing of these pen-pictures from the Balkans—a region which, in every sense, is much more complicated than his earlier topic. The sketches are drawn from Servia, Bulgaria, and those western parts of Turkey commonly called Macedonia and Albania.

He says that Macedonia is little more than a name given to a tract of Turkish territory where, besides the Turks, lives a congeries of races, chiefly Bulgarian and Greek; and it is the hatred between the Bulgarian and Greek Christians that is responsible for a large part of the outrages to which so much attention has been called. All curse the Turk and love Macedonia, but it is Greek Macedonia or Bulgarian Macedonia. This bitter animosity between the Greek and Bulgarian Christians is responsible for the larger part of the ills of their country:

The misrule of the Turk is bad enough, but to hand over Macedonia to the Christians of Macedonia to work out their own salvation would be to plunge the country into direst bloodshed.

The book makes no special appeal to the geographer, but it offers to the general reader many glimpses of the Balkans and their people that are most acceptable in these days, when good descriptions of that region are still few in number.

**Ten Thousand Miles in a Yacht round the West Indies and up the Amazon. By Richard Arthur.** 253 pp., and many Illustrations. E. P. Dutton & Company, New York, 1906. (Price, \$2.)

This is a vivacious account of the yacht voyage made in the winter of 1904-5 by Mr. E. C. Benedict and his party of guests to Bermuda, the West Indies, and up the Amazon as far as Manaos, about 1,000 miles inland. It was Mr. Benedict's original intention to extend the journey to Iquitos, 2,200 miles from the ocean—a point that is reached by large steamers from Europe, but it was decided that practically every phenomenon of the river had been revealed in the first thousand miles, and that there was little to gain in experience or pleasure by going any farther. The journey was about 10,000 miles in length, and occupied 76 days.

Nothing geographically new could be expected from a narrative of this kind, but it is not often that the enjoyment, variety, and interest of a pleasure journey are more